Memorial Day Memorandum to
my Mayor, June 30, 1963
From Daniel S. Anthony Exec Dir
Newark Human Rights Comm.

Long smouldering Negro frustrations + hostilities are most readily vented against white police authority. This being a fact of Negro life, both North and South, your Police Director is in the most sensitive spot of your administration. If his ~~men~~? make one major ~~mistake~~ mistake at the wrong time and place, tempers are such today that the fuse will ~~[illegible]~~ be lit.

1. I am therefore suggesting ~~asking you~~, Mr. Mayor, that you ~~to~~ ask your Police Director to appoint his most sympathetic and understanding man to an Emergency Human Rights Squad whose function will be to take over immediate command in the event of a racial conflict. Naturally this must be a highly integrated unit whose members understand why Negroes fear or hate policemen. One ~~[illegible]~~ overtly anti-Negro member of this squad could result in future tragic incidents.

In the event your police director will not accept this concept, you should be prepared with an alternative recommendation: That you as Mayor will be apprised of any incidents which appear to be racially inflammatory. Certainly the top Negro officer under your Police Director's command should be on 24 hour call during the crucial months ahead.

Also I urgently request that you do all you can to accelerate and increase the courses in Human Rights and Race Relations training so that all policemen will become more knowledgable as to the causative factors behind Negro aggression, hostility and resistance.

It only takes one hot-headed Negro or one trigger happy or fearful cop to ignite the spark which will end in a local conflagration.

~~I might add — I don't think that~~

Mayor's  Commission on GROUP RELATIONS

Room 214, City Hall, Newark 2, New Jersey
Telephone MItchell 3-6300
Ext. 281

LEO P. CARLIN, Mayor
MARIANO J. RINALDI, Business Administrator

DANIEL S. ANTHONY, Director
WALTER D. CHAMBERS, Ass't. Dir.

"INSTANT ARRESTS" of the Jackson Mississippi variety will be an equitable solution to picketing problems when and if they confront Newark's finest.

Because many of Newark's Negroes believe they are not getting fair and equal treatment from Newark Cops, it is going to be necessary for you to formalize the grievance procedure. The Negro leadership knows it can go to you for a hearing, but the average citizen is not aware of your open door.

Since the Newark Human Rights Commission has no official sanction to hear or investigate a growing number of complaints of police mistreatment, I am suggesting that you publicize your "Open Door Policy" for "Talks with the Mayor". The psychological effect of this Executive Hearing of Citizens Complaints will, I think, do much to reduce some of the aggravation which seems to be increasing in our City. You might use the N.H.R.C. to screen the legitimate from the crack pot complaints.

On the other hand, it may well be feasible to ask an Executive Council of your H.R.C. to hear these citizens gripes on racial matters.

~~[illegible]~~

Unless you shift some of this responsibility to an Executive Council ~~of your Human Rights Commission~~ or some other duly constituted NON-POLICE AGENCY), you are going to be personally plagued with an ~~[illegible]~~ discouraging number of real and contrived cases of unwarranted police ~~mistreatment~~ and alleged police brutality.

You ~~see~~ Mayor, the down and out, unemployed Negro is getting ~~[illegible]~~ more aggressive ~~[illegible]~~ as each frustrating day fades into every hopeless night. As his frustration mounts, ~~his~~ aggression is ~~his~~ normal human outlet. But of course, policemen also are human. They too can stand only so much taunting and resistance. When an irresistable (Negro) force ~~comes head on~~ meets ~~against~~ an immovable (Police) object — something's gotta give, and as you know full well, the Negro is tired of giving.

Now, since the Policeman has to be right in our ~~[illegible]~~ culture, and since

every Negro knows this cruel but basic fact of life — the safety valves are greatly reduced for both white officer and Negro citizen. There doesn't seem to be any way out, once the situation gets as far as a Negro-Police confrontation. However I believe sincerely there is something the you can do now to begin righting the wrongs of legal justice as the Negro sees it.

3. You may want to convene your police director & corp. counsel Municipal Judges, for a depth exploration of new ways and means of meting out a new kind of American justice toward the Negro. I am sure that at this late stage of your successful career, I do not have to tell you the traditional facts of justice for Negroes as they perceive it, in Northern Courts.

After this past month or two of the Carrie Powell, Lido Club and Pennington Court cases, I am sure you are aware

~~of the fact~~ that Negroes are no longer going to tolerate the old "subtle" relationships between police action and municipal "justice". They can not be convinced ~~that~~ "Negro crime" is not partially a white man's statistic.

To be quite blunt, Mr. Mayor, you will have to explore the possibility of ~~[illegible]~~ eliminating "second class justice" with your police director, corporation counsel, and your municipal magistrates. (In this critically needed investigation, I am strongly suggesting a sincere utilization of the services of Judges Lohman and Hazelwood, both of whom are sympathetic to the more constitutional interpretation of ~~[illegible]~~ municipal police protection and legal procedure ~~[illegible]~~ vis a vis the Puerto Rican + Negro.)

I can not conclude this point without telling you that I personally feel ~~[illegible]~~ police work and the subsequent administration of justice is by far the most sensitive (area) of racial tension and conflict we face in Newark, ~~[illegible]~~. The Negro has learned

through crime and devastating personal offense to fear and resent America's lip service to his constitutional rights. Long years of lynch laws and police brutalization in the South, as they are presently practiced in Birmingham and Jackson bring our milder Northern practices into sharper focus and scrutiny.

4. The Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education must use the summer months to inaugerate a summer remedial program for Newark youth which will be satisfactory to the Negro community. The year of decision is already upon us and we have nothing but a 7th grade "Newark Plan" and an inadequate "partial open enrollment plan" which will no longer satisfy the restive Negro parent. Special schools, the Princeton Plan, Higher Horizon programs, Negro Principals and Administrators, The South Side Human Renewal Plan are all possible positive

approaches to the resolution of our Nation's 1954 Supreme Court mandate, but all of them collectively are no more than experimental ~~drops in the bucket~~ hopes, unless we have the money to put them in operation.

Newark can ~~never~~ solve its defacto segregation in schools problem, because it is becoming a defacto segregated city. When 64.7% of our elementary school population is non-white — how long can we continue to delude ourselves? Mr Mayor, that Newark as a whole is going to remain white or return to its 1940 ~~condition~~ percentage of 1/3 Negro 2/3 White. It is not in the cards.

Because our President has found no solution for his Southern problems, more Negroes are moving to Newark every day, just as more whites flee to the suburbs. Newark is now the only

Suburbs

Northern City with a larger Negro than white population. All the forces of Urban Renewal and Negro Removal are not going to reverse this trend. The history of our Nation and the lack of a National or local solutions for the South are facts with which we must deal realistically.

But the overwhelming reality we now face in Newark is that a majority Negro City can not blame its Board of Education for de facto segregation in the schools. Therefore some meaningful and imaginative new approaches to our growing educational + drop out problems must be sought.

May I suggest here, Mr. Mayor, that you re-read the March Recommendations of the N.H.R.C. to the

Mayor and City Council. In it we request an immediate request [illegible] the Fed. Court for massive financial assistance for the ~~[illegible]~~ improved education [illegible] our [illegible] and [illegible] youth. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the growth of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] like the [illegible] can no longer [illegible] [illegible] without [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible]

~~[illegible]~~

Can ~~[illegible]~~ be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] executive [illegible] reverse [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Negro [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] needs [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

a new culture [illegible] has been
raised, if its instinct for culture.

Metropolitan

~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] The dilemma

[illegible] and no other major [illegible]
by [illegible] an area of
social [illegible] dynamite [illegible]
[illegible] enough [illegible]
[illegible] that odious lack [illegible]
[illegible]
about ~~[illegible]~~ own local [illegible]
[illegible] the enormity of the disease and
its causes [illegible]
[illegible] ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] question

d) how to give equal education to all our youth. ~~All~~ Many of the major Northern cities have full time specialists in intergroup relations working in this area; Newark has only a ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ lay citizens committee with little power.

If something is not done soon to show the Negro community that we are working conscientiously on this matter, I fear we shall become the next "Englewood."

As a stop gap (measure)? Mr. Mayor of the N.H.R.C. you might now authorize ~~[illegible]~~ to hire the intergroup specialist in schools problems ~~[illegible]~~ which we recommended in our Annual Report of 1962. And while you're in the mood of accepting the reality of our race problems in Newark schools, it would be a propitious (moment)? to give us the OK to recruit a Police-Community ~~[illegible]~~ specialist in intergroup relations.

You will recall the M.H.R.C requested both of these professional positions in its first memo to you last July. Do you feel the time is ripe for some action on these two positions ~~has arrived~~?

We hope so.

5. If your Human Rights Comm. is ever to become functional in this time of crisis it will need more space. You vetoed our request for a field office because you did not like our choice of address. You suggested the 400 block on Clinton Ave but there is no available or suitable office space in that 3 block area.

May we please have your OK to procure the office at 655 Clinton or your advice as to where we shall go. We need a field operation desperately!

6. During your campaign you spoke about an Equal Employment Coordinator from your personal staff. Do you think the time is now ripe to assign Paul Reilly or Earl Harris, to this job. If we can't begin to straighten out the discriminatory policies of some of the building trades unions and some of our local business and industry practices, we shall be open to the "Philadelphia Story"!

In connection with our Equal Employment problems, may I suggest

Human Rights

Labor

7. Conferences & dialogues with Business and Industrial leaders. Economic survival is the first factor in man's quest for self preservation. The Purpose of these conferences would be to break the employment barriers across the boards; to reduce mounting Negro, P.R. and youth unemployment and to give minority individuals a greater hope for self survival ~~and individual self improvement self fulfillment~~.

Man has a basic psychic need to aspire to self improvement. All persons want to be somebodys. For too many centuries we have ~~at~~ consciously & unconsciously contrived to ~~keep~~ the majority of Negroes as Nobodys.

In your farsighted attempt to initiate this Newark Charter for Human Rights you are going to be criticized by ~~[illegible]~~ some important ~~and unimportant~~ persons in your administration. ~~including some highly respected Negro advisors~~

If and when these disagreements should develop, I can only ~~[illegible]~~ hope you to remain firm in your convictions of equality, justice and dignity for all. And I am sure that when the Negro Revolt is an established fact of mid twentieth century history the name of Hugh J. Addonizio will be remembered ~~[illegible]~~ as the first Mayor in America who had the courage of his convictions.

The time for greatness is now. You have the mind and the heart to become <u>the</u> National leader in solving the biggest problem of the world's greatest democracy.